

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicants amend the Application and seek reconsideration thereof. In this response, Applicants amend claims 1, 18, and 22; and add claims 26-29. Applicants do not cancel any claims. Claims 7-17, 19-21, and 23-25 have been withdrawn from consideration without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 18, 22, and 26-29 are pending.

I. Background of the Invention

The present invention provides a video editing system whose production cost is reduced, and which can flexibly respond to the addition of newly-developed editing methods. The invention includes an editing server in communication with a plurality of editing clients via a network. The editing server stores AV streams, and then receives instructions for editing the AV streams from the editing clients. After the AV streams are edited, the editing server combines the edited AV streams into a single AV stream and transmits the edited, single AV stream to each editing client. Accordingly, it is unnecessary to provide each client with a special device to perform the editing functions.

With the above structure, the editing server collectively performs the editing process of the AV streams, and therefore the system does not require a specific apparatus for each editing client, which results in a reduction in the price of the entire editing system. Furthermore, even when new techniques of image synthesis and video effects are created, all that is required is to provide devices for supporting the newly developed techniques to the editing server, and the editing clients require no changes. As a result, the editing server of the present invention offers the advantage of being rich in flexibility (*See Specification, page 6, lines 14-21*). Therefore, the

invention reduces the production cost of the whole editing system, and allows the editing system to flexibly respond to a new editing method for producing a special effect or combining images since the new editing method can be supported by only providing a device supporting the new editing method to the editing server. Moreover, the present invention transmits a single AV stream to the editing clients. Thus, unlike a conventional editing system in which a plurality of AV streams to be combined are transmitted from an editing server to a client, the present invention combines a plurality of AV streams into a single AV stream, and transmits this AV stream to a client, resulting in a reduced load for the network.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 2003/0091329 filed by Nakata et al. (“*Nakata*”). Applicants amend claims 1, 18, and 22.

To anticipate a claim, the cited reference must teach every limitation of the rejected claim. Among other elements, claim 1 defines “an editing server included in an audio/video (AV) editing system, which includes a plurality of clients that are connected via a network to the editing server, the editing server including editing information receiving means for receiving editing information from a client out of the plurality of clients via the network.” Applicants submit *Nakata* fails to teach at least these elements of claim 1.

Nakata discloses an editing apparatus (reference numeral 1) including an editing process apparatus (reference numeral 3) as shown in FIG.1. Editing apparatus 3 receives a control signal from the computer (reference numeral 2) included in editing apparatus 1 or from dedicated controllers (reference numerals 4 and 5), and “**an editing operator** can input control commands

for editing operations,” such as effect processing (*Nakata*, paragraphs 66-71, emphasis added). As such, Applicants submit *Nakata* shows a single editing operator utilizing a control signal from computer 2 included in the editing apparatus 1 or the dedicated controllers 4 and 5 for editing information, and not a plurality of clients as recited in claim 1. Moreover, the editing process apparatus 3 in *Nakata* is not utilized to receive editing information from any clients, whereas the editing information receiving unit of the present application receives editing information from a plurality of network-linked clients (See FIG. 4 of the present application).

Applicants note that although *Nakata* describes “this editing system can be used as a network-type editing system efficiently carrying out editing while sharing servers on the network” (*Nakata*, paragraph 10, lines 4-8), a statement of detailed disclosure in order to realize the present invention cannot be found anywhere in *Nakata*. Moreover, there is no disclosure of a plurality of clients in communication with the system in *Nakata*, and certainly no disclosure of “receiving editing information from a client out of the plurality of clients via the network” as recited in claim 1 since *Nakata* only discusses a single editing operator.

In addition, the Office Action argues that the on-air buffer (reference numeral 9) of *Nakata* is equivalent to the transmitting means of the present invention. Applicants disagree because *Nakata*’s on-air buffer 9 stores video and audio signal S16 of an editing-processed program (See *Nakata*, paragraphs 77-78), whereas the transmitting means of the present invention transmits post-editing AV streams to one or more clients that have transmitted the editing information to the editing server via the network.

Thus, the editing server of claim 1 has a different structure from *Nakata*, and it would be impossible for the system disclosed in *Nakata* to achieve the above-mentioned effects. Therefore, *Nakata* fails to teach or disclose all of the elements of claim 1.

The failure of *Nakata* to teach or disclose all of the elements of claim 1 is fatal to the anticipation rejection. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by *Nakata*. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the elements thereof. Therefore, Applicants submit claims 2-6 are not anticipated by *Nakata* at least for the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-6.

Regarding the rejection of claims 18 and 22, Applicants submit these claims include elements similar to claim 1 discussed above. Therefore, Applicants submit the discussion above regarding *Nakata* failing to teach or disclose all of the elements of claim 1 is equally applicable to similar elements recited in claims 18 and 22. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18 and 22.

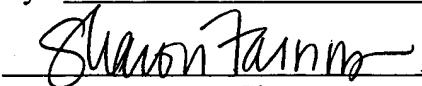
III. New Claims

Applicants add new claims 26-29 which include elements similar to claim 1 discussed above. Therefore, Applicants submit claims 26-29 are in condition for allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, in addition to their own respective features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Office Action believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (714) 427-7420.


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 6, 2005.

By: Sharon Farnus

Signature

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Very truly yours,

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